

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Tuesday, February 1, 2005

The House met at 2 p.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: "Come, let us rejoice in the Lord. Lift up your hearts and give thanks to our God, for He has done marvelous deeds."

As a Nation which loves the experience of living as the free children of God, let Americans now rejoice with our brothers and sisters in Iraq.

We have been moved by their patient endurance of the past and by their heroic effort to create a future. Their cherished votes have been a sign of bravery to an anxious world. Their united voice may yet drown out threats of terrorism as they take bold steps in building a pluralistic society.

We are grateful to You, our God, for the international military forces who, with their very lives, have surrounded this prayerful people. Reward all of them for their service and their sacrifices in the name of freedom by granting Iraq the promise of a better tomorrow and, in the end, lasting peace.

To You, O God, be honor and glory now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KUCINICH led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 20. Concurrent resolution providing for a joint session of Congress to receive a message from the President.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a concurrent resolution

of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 7. Concurrent resolution congratulating the people of Ukraine for conducting a democratic, transparent, and fair runoff presidential election on December 26, 2004, and congratulating Viktor Yushchenko on his election as President of Ukraine and his commitment to democracy and reform.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 100-696, the Chair, on behalf of the Republican Leader, announces the appointment of the following Senator as a member of the United States Capitol Preservation Commission:

The Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), vice the Senator from Colorado (Mr. Campbell).

The message also announced that pursuant to section 4(a)(3) of Public Law 94-118, the Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, appoints the following Senator to serve as a member of the Japan-United States Friendship Commission:

The Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI).

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PUTNAM) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 27, 2005.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on January 26, 2005 at 6:10 p.m.:

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 21.

Appointments: Joint Committee on Taxation.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAH, *Clerk of the House.*

IRAQI ELECTIONS

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, at a meeting of Republican Members of the House and Senate this weekend, our distinguished majority leader, who has just come into the Chamber, reminded

us that 24 years ago, on the 20th of January out here on the west front of the Capitol, Ronald Reagan said, "No weapon in the arsenals of the world is so formidable as the will and moral courage of free men and women."

Mr. Speaker, we also this weekend witnessed the greatest example in recent times of that when we saw a people who, for a half a century have been living under repression, having no opportunity to express themselves, exercised that. The anecdotes are amazing. The story of the woman who literally gave birth at a voting station and then named her baby Democracy underscores the kind of success that we are seeing.

It is very clear that self-determination, political pluralism about which the chaplain just spoke, and the rule of law are on the move. The Iraqi people are to be both congratulated and thanked: congratulated, of course, because they are going to be able to enjoy their success; thanks for the message they are sending throughout the entire world.

WHAT NEXT FOR IRAQ?

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, as I watched the people of Iraq cast their first ballots in 50 years, I was deeply moved by their courage, their rejection of violence, and their desire to define their own future. I salute the men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces who helped facilitate these elections. Their service will long be remembered by those who voted this weekend.

But what happens next? Iraq is no more secure today than it was last week. Iraqi insurgents and terrorist groups are no less determined to wreak havoc across Iraq. Our troops are no more protected today than they were last week. And the American people still have no clue about when the President plans to bring our troops home.

It is time, Mr. Speaker, for the President to change course, to level with the American people, and tell us how he is going to end this war and when he is going to bring our brave men and women home. No more extended deployments of our Guard and Reserves. No more multiple deployments of our active duty forces.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for George Bush to end this war. It is time to start the process to bring our troops home.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.